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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council urges Angolan Government and UNITA to take steps now to ensure deployment of UNAVEM III units by 9 May.

+ Main Committee of Social Summit agrees on most outstanding issues of draft declaration and programme of action to be submitted to world leaders over weekend.

+ UNHCR warns closing borders will not solve refugee problem; says human rights violations and gross social inequities uproot people and cause instability.

+ Secretary-General meets heads of State and government in Copenhagen.

+ General Assembly appropriates $40 million for liquidation of UNOMOZ; urges prompt payment of assessed contributions to allow Special Account to meet liabilities.

+ Former UNPROFOR Commander says military solution will not solve conflict in Balkans.

+ Human Rights Commission rejects resolutions calling on China and Nigeria to ensure human rights.

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The Security Council Friday called upon the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to take steps now to ensure the prompt deployment of United Nations Angolan Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) units on 9 May. In a statement read out by its President, Li Zhaoxing (China), the Council called on the parties, particularly UNITA, to end negative propaganda, improve cooperation and stop activities which have complicated deployment of the Mission's units.

The Council endorsed Secretary-General Boutros Boutros- Ghali's conclusions that the Angolan Government and UNITA must provide more concrete signs of cooperation and goodwill in implementing the peace process. It urged

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them to immediately finalize arrangements for a meeting between Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos and UNITA President Jonas Savimbi to ensure political momentum for the successful completion of the Lusaka Protocol of 20 November 1994.

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Most of the outstanding language of the draft declaration and programme of action to be submitted to heads of State and government at the World Summit for Social Development over the weekend have been finalized. Agreement was reached on passages in the final documents concerning innovative ways of tackling the question of financial resources for social development and additional political commitment concerning eduction and health.

Still pending in the programme of action is language concerning the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity as contained in the United Nations Charter. A provision inviting creditor countries, private banks and multilateral financial institutions to explore innovative measures to alleviate the debt burdens of developing countries is also contentious.

The Chairman of the Main Negotiating Committee, Chilean Ambassador Juan Somavia, told correspondents that the draft declaration aimed to put the issues of ordinary people back in the picture. He said a commitment on the eradication of absolute poverty was truly historic. Another, dealing with structural adjustments, raised the question of why governments balanced their budgets on the backs of the weak and took the easy way out by cutting social expenditures.

Yesterday, the Summit was told market forces alone would not reverse the global trend of increasing unemployment. Many speakers said that economic growth had been accompanied by unemployment and a drop in living standards. They called on governments to support job creation programmes as the best way to attack poverty and social disintegration. Delegates also discussed the need to integrate migrant workers, which would require efforts to combat discrimination, xenophobia and racism.

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Governments were gravely mistaken if they believed that building barriers and closing borders would solve the refugee probem, Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), warned Friday. She was addressing the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen. The ranks of the world's 23 million refugees would swell, unless governments tackled the root causes of displacement, supported aid programmes in host countries and promoted reintegration of those returning to their homelands.

Ms. Ogata said social stability was not threatened by refugees, but by human rights violations and gross social inequities which uprooted people. The underlying causes must be addressed so people were no longer forced to

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flee, she stressed. It was no coincidence that most refugees were in the poorest parts of the world. She said the linkages between displacement and deprivation, between refugee flows and social disintegration were evident.

Meanwhile, the UNHCR has expressed concern that the agreement on "minimum guarantees" for asylum procedures by European Union members might actually erode certain basic asylum principles. The agreement proposes setting common standards for dealing with asylum seekers in all countries belonging to the European Union. The UNHCR said many of the proposed guarantees include principles it advocated. However, the "minimum guarantees" should not become "maximum guarantees", and it urged European Union members to continue implementing existing higher national standards.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met Friday with world leaders who have gathered in Copenhagen for the World Summit for Social Development. More than 120 heads of State or government will meet over the weekend to adopt the Summit's draft declaration and programme of action.

The Secretary-General met with the presidents of Turkey, Cyprus, Georgia, Zaire, Mali, Central African Republic, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Mozambique. He also met with the Prime Ministers of China and India.

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The General Assembly has appropriated $40 million to the Special Account for the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (UNOMOZ), to cover its liquidation over the period 16 November 1994 to 31 March 1995. The Assembly also decided that the assets of the Operation would be disposed of according to a set of priority principles.

If it is cost effective, all equipment that meets the requirements of other United Nations operations will be redeployed or held in reserve for future operations. Other equipment will be transferred on request to United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations already operating in Mozambique. The remainder will be sold commercially and assets which could not be dismantled will be donated to the Mozambique Government.

The Assembly expressed deep concern that the failure of Member States to pay their assessed contributions threatened to leave the Special Account with insufficient funds to meet its liabilities. It urged States to make prompt payment, and asked the Secretary-General to explore possibilities in order to ensure prompt reimbursement to countries who had contributed troops and equipment.

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There can be no military solution to the conflict in the Balkans, according to the former Commander of the United Nations Protection Force

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(UNPROFOR), General Bertrand Guillaume de Sauville de Lapresele. He told United Nations correspondents Friday that even though the Bosnian Serbs controlled 70 per cent of Bosnia and Herzegovina, there was no solution. Diplomatic negotiations, however "tricky" and difficult, would become more important in solving the conflict.

General de Lapresele said that it was natural, given UNPROFOR's impartial role, that it would be criticized by both sides. But it was a peace-keeper not a peacemaker, and its job was not to enforce peace or decide who was the aggressor. It must respect a "technical" impartiality, even if it held a moral opinion about who was responsible for certain actions. He believed one of the reasons the Croatian and Bosnian Governments expressed frustration with UNPROFOR was their mistaken belief that it should take sides and fight their war.

UNPROFOR's role was to aid humanitarian relief efforts, and it had helped save millions from starvation and illness, General de Lapresele said. It also aimed to obtain a cease-fire, without which there could be no peace settlement. He pointed out the cease-fire agreements in Croatia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina were still holding, even though the cessation of hostilities agreement was not being observed as much as hoped.

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The Commission on Human Rights has rejected draft resolutions calling on China and Nigeria to ensure all human rights. Under the resolutions, the Commission would have expressed concern at China's violation of the rights to freedom of assembly, religion and fair trial. It would have also expressed deep concern at the violations of human rights in Nigeria and called on its Government to restore democratic rule. The resolutions were rejected by a roll-call vote.

Earlier, the Commission heard that without action to stop the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the United Nation would be failing to deal with the one of the worst human rights violations. Ivan Mora, the Chairman of the Working Group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, said such practices were increasing worldwide and must be stopped.

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